



General Assembly

January Session, 2005

Committee Bill No. 5482

LCO No. 4561

04561HB05482KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 4-67x of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) There shall be a Child Poverty Council consisting of the
4 following members or their designees: The Secretary of the Office of
5 Policy and Management, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the
6 speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the
7 Senate and the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the
8 Commissioners of Children and Families, Social Services, Correction,
9 Mental Retardation, Mental Health and Addiction Services,
10 Transportation, Public Health, Education, Economic and Community
11 Development and Health Care Access, the Labor Commissioner, the
12 Chairman of the Board of Governors for Higher Education, the Child
13 Advocate, the chairperson of the State Prevention Council, the
14 chairperson of the Children's Trust Fund and the executive directors of
15 the Commission on Children and the Commission on Human Rights
16 and Opportunities. The Secretary of the Office of Policy and

17 Management or the secretary's designee shall be the chairperson. The
18 council shall develop a ten-year plan, to begin June 8, 2004, to reduce
19 the number of children living in poverty in the state by fifty per cent.

20 (b) The plan shall contain: (1) An identification and analysis of the
21 occurrence of child poverty in the state, (2) an analysis of the long-term
22 effects of child poverty on children, their families and their
23 communities, (3) an analysis of costs of child poverty to municipalities
24 and the state, (4) an inventory of state-wide public and private
25 programs that address child poverty, (5) the percentage of the target
26 population served by such programs and the current state funding
27 levels, if any, for such programs, (6) an identification and analysis of
28 any deficiencies or inefficiencies of such programs, and (7) procedures
29 and priorities for implementing strategies to achieve a fifty per cent
30 reduction in child poverty in the state by June 30, 2014. Such
31 procedures and priorities shall include, but not be limited to, (A)
32 vocational training and placement to promote career progression, for
33 parents of children living in poverty, (B) educational opportunities,
34 including higher education opportunities, and advancement for such
35 parents and children including, but not limited to, preliteracy, literacy
36 and family literacy programs, (C) housing for such parents and
37 children, (D) day care and after-school programs and mentoring
38 programs for such children and for single parents, (E) health care
39 access for such parents and children including access to mental health
40 services and family planning, (F) treatment programs and services,
41 including substance abuse programs and services, for such parents and
42 children, and (G) accessible childhood nutrition programs.

43 (c) In developing the plan, the council shall consult with experts and
44 providers of services to children living in poverty and parents of such
45 children. The council shall hold at least one public hearing on the plan.
46 After the public hearing, the council may make any modifications that
47 the members deem necessary based on testimony given at the public
48 hearing.

49 (d) Funds from private and public sources may be accepted and
50 utilized by the council to develop and implement the plan and
51 provisions of this section.

52 (e) Not later than January 1, 2005, the council shall submit the plan,
53 in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees
54 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and human
55 services and to the select committee having cognizance of matters
56 relating to children, along with any recommendations for legislation
57 and funding necessary to implement the plan.

58 (f) On or before January 1, 2006, and annually thereafter, until
59 January 1, 2015, the council shall report, in accordance with section 11-
60 4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
61 cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and human services
62 and to the select committee having cognizance of matters relating to
63 children on the implementation of the plan, [and] progress made
64 toward meeting the child poverty reduction goal specified in
65 subsection (a) of this section and the extent to which state actions are in
66 conformity with the plan. The council shall meet at least quarterly to
67 review and coordinate state agency efforts to meet the child poverty
68 reduction goal specified in subsection (a) of this section.

69 (g) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Policy and
70 Management shall: (1) Establish administrative procedures, through
71 memoranda of agreement, coordination of services or other means, to
72 improve access by eligible children and families to services that
73 diminish poverty or negative outcomes related to poverty, (2) require
74 that state contracts related to services for low-income children and
75 families include performance-based standards and outcome measures
76 related to the child poverty reduction goal specified in subsection (a) of
77 this section, (3) establish a common protocol among state agencies for a
78 standard assessment concerning barriers to employment, including
79 transportation, child care, education and substance abuse issues, to
80 expedite referrals and access to services; and (4) within available

81 appropriations, increase outreach and education to low-income
82 families regarding available services and resources.

83 (h) Within available appropriations, the council shall appoint a
84 consumer committee to advise it regarding strategies to reduce child
85 poverty. The consumer committee shall include, but not be limited to,
86 a parent of a child living in poverty, a community leader, a municipal
87 elected official and a child advocate.

88 [(g)] (i) For purposes of this section, the Secretary of the Office of
89 Policy and Management, or the secretary's designee, shall be
90 responsible for coordinating all necessary activities, including, but not
91 limited to, scheduling and presiding over meetings and public
92 hearings.

93 [(h)] (j) The council shall terminate on June 30, 2015.

94 Sec. 2. Section 17b-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2005*):

96 The Labor Department, in cooperation with the Department of
97 Social Services, shall provide information and assistance in obtaining,
98 within available appropriations, the federal earned income credit
99 established pursuant to 26 USC 32, to each applicant for or recipient of
100 assistance from the department. The Labor Department, in cooperation
101 with the Department of Revenue Services, shall promote the earned
102 income credit program to recipients of benefits pursuant to section
103 17b-112. The Labor Department, in cooperation with the Child Poverty
104 Council, shall, within available appropriations, promote the federal
105 earned income credit to municipalities, public and private employers,
106 community organizations and other entities that have frequent contact
107 with low income families and shall promote federal welfare to work
108 tax credit programs and federal work opportunity tax credit programs
109 to public and private employers.

110 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioners of Social

111 Services and Education and the Labor Commissioner shall, within
112 available appropriations and in consultation with literacy volunteers
113 and organizations that promote literacy, incorporate child and family
114 literacy standards and goals into family resource center programs,
115 temporary family assistance programs, "Jobs First" programs and other
116 similar programs deemed appropriate by such commissioners.

117 Sec. 4. Section 10-266t of the general statutes is repealed and the
118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

119 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall award grants annually, in
120 accordance with this section and section 10-266u, to local and regional
121 boards of education identified as priority school districts pursuant to
122 section 10-266p. In addition, for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2000,
123 and June 30, 2001, the commissioner shall provide a grant to any local
124 or regional board of education in a town which does not qualify for a
125 grant pursuant to subsection (a) of section 10-266p for said fiscal years
126 but does qualify for a grant pursuant to subsection (b) of said section
127 for said fiscal years. The grants shall provide funds for extended
128 school building hours for public schools in such districts for academic
129 enrichment and support, and recreation programs for students in the
130 districts. Such programs may be conducted in buildings other than
131 public school buildings, provided the board of education is able to
132 demonstrate to the commissioner that the facility in which the
133 program will be run can adequately support the academic goals of the
134 program and a plan is in place to provide adequate academic
135 instruction.

136 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall provide a grant estimate
137 annually to each priority school district. The estimated grant shall be
138 calculated as follows: Each district's average daily membership, as
139 defined in subdivision (2) of section 10-261, divided by the total of all
140 priority school districts' average daily membership, multiplied by the
141 amount appropriated for the grant program minus the amounts
142 specified in subsections (a) and (b) of section 10-266u.

143 (c) (1) Annually, each such district shall file a grant application with
144 the Commissioner of Education, in such form and at such time as he
145 prescribes. The application shall identify the local distribution of funds
146 by school and operator, with program specification, hours and days of
147 operation.

148 (2) Each such district shall solicit applications for individual school
149 programs, on a competitive basis, from town and nonprofit agencies,
150 prioritize the applications and select applications for funding within
151 the total grant amount allocated to the district. District decisions to
152 fund individual school programs shall be based on specified criteria
153 including: (A) Total hours of operation, (B) number of students served,
154 (C) total student hours of service, (D) total program cost, (E) estimate
155 of volunteer hours, or other sources of support, (F) community
156 involvement, commitment and support, (G) nonduplication of existing
157 services, (H) needs of the student body of the school, (I) unique
158 qualities of the proposal, and (J) responsiveness to the requirements of
159 this section and section 10-266u. Each district shall submit to the
160 commissioner all proposals received as part of its grant application
161 and documentation of the review and ranking process for such
162 proposals.

163 (3) Grants to individual school programs shall be limited to a range
164 of twenty to eighty thousand dollars per school, based on school
165 enrollment.

166 (d) Each district, shall: (1) Demonstrate, in its grant application, that
167 a district-wide and school building needs assessment was conducted,
168 including an inventory of existing academic enrichment and support,
169 and recreational opportunities available during nonschool hours both
170 within and outside of school buildings; (2) ensure equal program
171 access for all students and necessary accommodations and support for
172 students with disabilities; (3) provide a summer component, unless it
173 is able to document that sufficient summer opportunity already exists;
174 (4) include in its application a schedule and total number of hours that

175 it determines to be reasonable and sufficient for individual school
176 programs; (5) support no less than ten per cent of the cost of the total
177 district-wide extended school building hours program and provide
178 documentation of local dollars or in-kind contributions, or both; and
179 (6) contract for the direct operation of the program, unless it is able to
180 document that no providers are interested or able to provide a cost
181 efficient program.

182 (e) All programs funded pursuant to this section shall: (1) Offer both
183 academic enrichment and support and recreation experiences, (2) be
184 open to all resident students in the district, (3) be designed to ensure
185 communication with the child's teacher and ties to the regular school
186 curriculum, (4) be clearly articulated with structured and specified
187 experiences for children but able to accommodate the irregular
188 participation of any one child, (5) provide for community involvement,
189 (6) investigate the use of the National Service Corps, (7) coordinate
190 operations and activities with existing programs and the agencies
191 which operate such programs, (8) provide for parent involvement in
192 program planning and the use of parents as advisers and volunteers,
193 and (9) provide for business involvement or sponsorship. Programs
194 within a district may vary in terms of times of operation and nature of
195 the program. All programs which operate in a public school shall have
196 access to existing special facilities and equipment in the public school
197 and shall have the written endorsement of the school principal and
198 superintendent of schools for the school district.

199 (f) Grant funds may be used to hire personnel to provide for the
200 instruction and supervision of children and for necessary support costs
201 such as food, program supplies, equipment and materials, direct cost
202 of building maintenance, personnel supervision and transportation but
203 shall not be used for indirect costs.

204 (g) The Commissioner of Education may negotiate the contents of a
205 district's grant application or refuse to authorize a grant if he finds the
206 proposal costs are not reasonable or necessary or the selection of

207 specific local building programs over others was not justified by the
208 process and the data.

209 (h) Notwithstanding subsections (d) and (e) of this section, a school
210 district may charge fees for participation in after-school academic
211 enrichment, support or recreational programs, provided the fees are
212 calculated on a sliding scale based on ability to pay and no fee exceeds
213 seventy-five per cent of the average cost of participation. No school
214 district may exclude a student from participation in such after-school
215 academic enrichment, support and recreational programs due to
216 inability to pay a fee.

217 (i) Within available appropriations, grant funds shall be used for
218 specialized mentoring services targeted within school districts to meet
219 the academic, emotional and social needs of children ages six through
220 sixteen living in poverty. Such specialized mentoring services shall be
221 prioritized for: (1) Families receiving temporary family assistance, (2)
222 families with a custodial parent under the age of twenty, and (3)
223 families in which the primary caretaker is a grandparent. Such
224 specialized mentoring services shall include, but not be limited to,
225 literacy, financial literacy, career and scholastic guidance. Funding for
226 such specialized programs may include school and business
227 partnerships and private funds.

228 Sec. 5. (Effective July 1, 2005) The sum of one hundred thousand
229 dollars is appropriated to the Labor Department, from the General
230 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, for the purpose of
231 promoting the federal earned income credit, federal welfare to work
232 programs and federal work opportunity tax credit programs.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	4-67x
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2005</i>	17b-16
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	10-266t
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce the number of children living in poverty in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. MUSHINSKY, 85th Dist.; REP. THOMPSON, 13th Dist.
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REP. VILLANO, 91st Dist.; REP. NAFIS, 27th Dist.
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